



# 2009 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA



## ALL PRIORITIES/INQUIRIES:

### COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Terri Maus Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer  
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## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Salud Carbajal, 1st District  
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
CONTACTS .....	3
COUNTY AT A GLANCE.....	6
COUNTY BUDGET AT A GLANCE.....	7
COUNTY'S FEDERAL AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES .....	8-9
DIRECTORY FOR COUNTY'S BOARD OF SUPERVISORS .....	10
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE .....	11
2008 PLATFORM PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE.....	12
COUNTY'S LEGISLATIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES.....	13
FEDERAL PRIORITIES AT A GLANCE .....	14
STATE PRIORITIES AT A GLANCE .....	15

## 2009 PRIORITIES

	ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES.....	18
	 AIR QUALITY- MARINE VESSEL EMISSIONS.....	19-20
	CAL-WORKS/WELFARE TO WORK .....	21
	CANCER DETECTION.....	22
	 DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FUNDING.....	23
	DISASTER RELIEF.....	24
	 GOLETA BEACH COUNTY PARK.....	25
	 HEALTH ISSUES .....	26
	 HOMELESSNESS .....	27
	 LAKE CACHUMA.....	28
	 LAKE CACHUMA QUAGGA MUSSELS.....	29
	 MANDATE REIMBURSEMENT AND RELIEF .....	30-31
	 MISSION CREEK CHANNEL.....	32
	 PARKS/OPEN SPACE .....	33
	PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES FOR STATE INSTITUTIONS .....	34
	 PROPOSITION 10.....	35
	 PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE.....	36
	 SANTA MARIA LEVEE .....	37
	SOCIAL SERVICES - COST OF DOING BUSINESS.....	38
	 STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM (SCHIP).....	39-40
	 TRANSPORTATION(SAFETEA-LU).....	41-42
	TRANSPORTATION(PROPOSITION 42) .....	43-44
	 VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING .....	45



STATE



FEDERAL



# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY AT A GLANCE

## THE PEOPLE

- **Population:** 424,425 (1/1/2007)
- **Gender: (2007)**
  - 50% Male
  - 50% Female
- **Ethnicity: (2007)**
  - 55% White
  - 38% Hispanic
  - 2% Black
  - 5% Other
- Median Age: 34.2 (2007)

## THE ECONOMY

- Unemployment rate: 5.3% (2007)
- Value of gross production for agricultural: \$1.1 billion (2007)
- **Top 3 crops (2007)**
  - strawberries
  - broccoli
  - wine grapes
- **Top 3 employers: (2007)**
  - University of California (UCSB) 9,723 jobs
  - Vandenberg Air Force Base 4,374 jobs
  - County of Santa Barbara 4,269 jobs
- Median home price: \$771,463 (2007)
- Median family income: \$67,100 (2007)

## THE GOVERNMENT

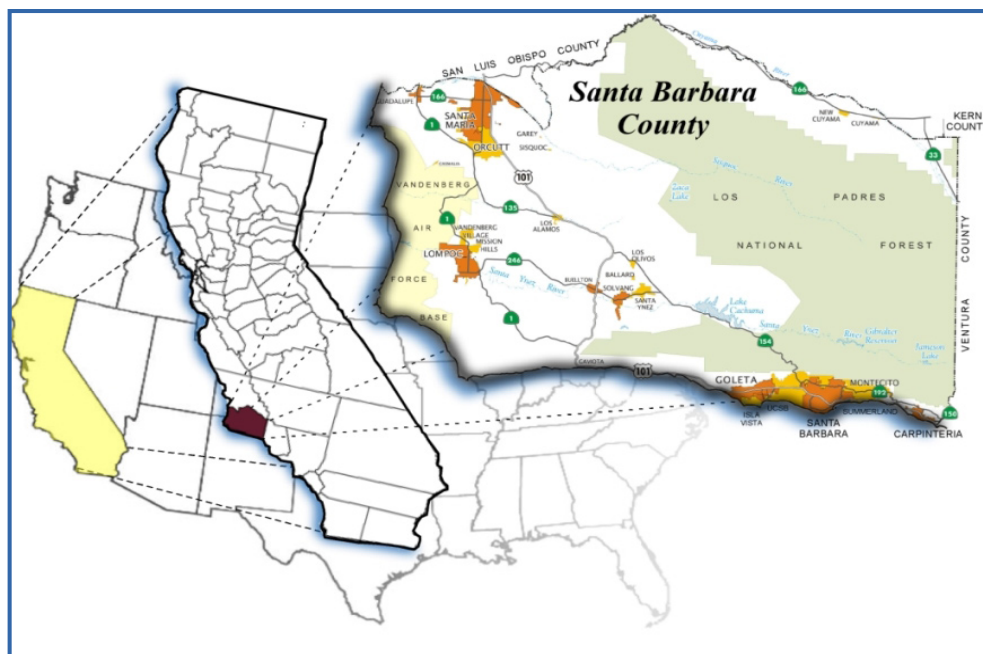
- General law County founded in 1850
- 8 cities
- 17 school districts
- 26 special districts
- 4 airports

## THE LAND

- 2,774 square miles (1/3 located within the Los Padres National Forest)
- 150 square miles Vandenberg Air Force Base
- 110 miles of beaches
- Average temperature 64 degrees F
- Average 300 days of sunshine a year

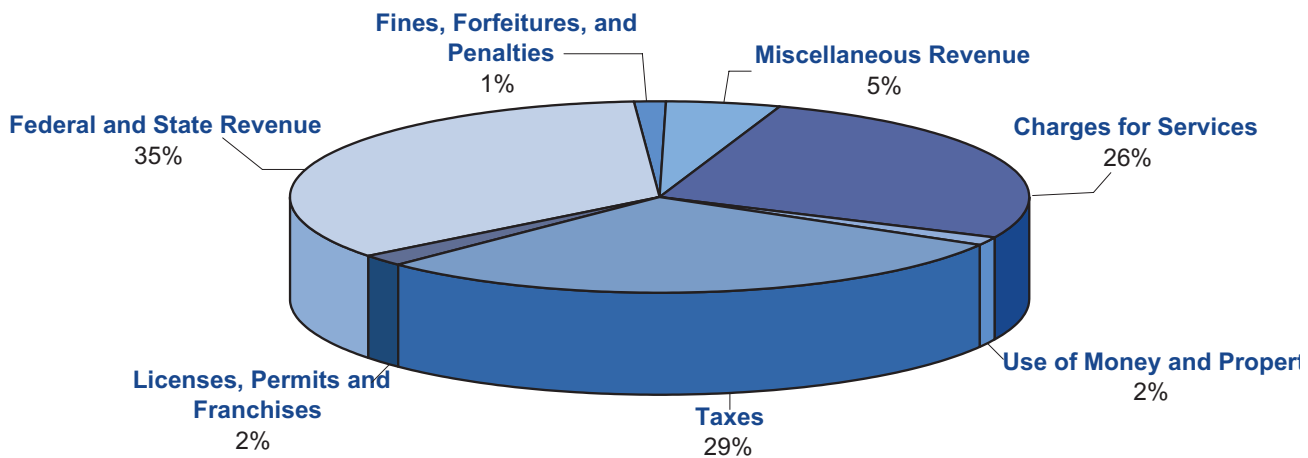
## THE COMMUNITY

- 114 parks
- 18 beaches
- 16 open space preserves
- 16 public libraries
- 17 golf courses
- **Education**
  - High school graduation rate: 80.9% (2006)
  - Bachelor's degree or higher: 26%
  - Total K – 12 Enrollment: 66,501 (2006-07)
  - Student/Teacher Ratio: 20.6 (2006-07)
  - Cost Per Pupil: \$848.41 (2006-07)
- **Civic Participation (02/2008)**
  - Number of Precincts: 314
  - Number of Eligible Voters: 274,254
  - Number of Registered Voters: 183,099
  - Percent of Registered Voters: 66.76%
  - Percent of Registered Voters voting at polls: 30.41%
  - Percent of Registered Voters voting by mail: 36.03%

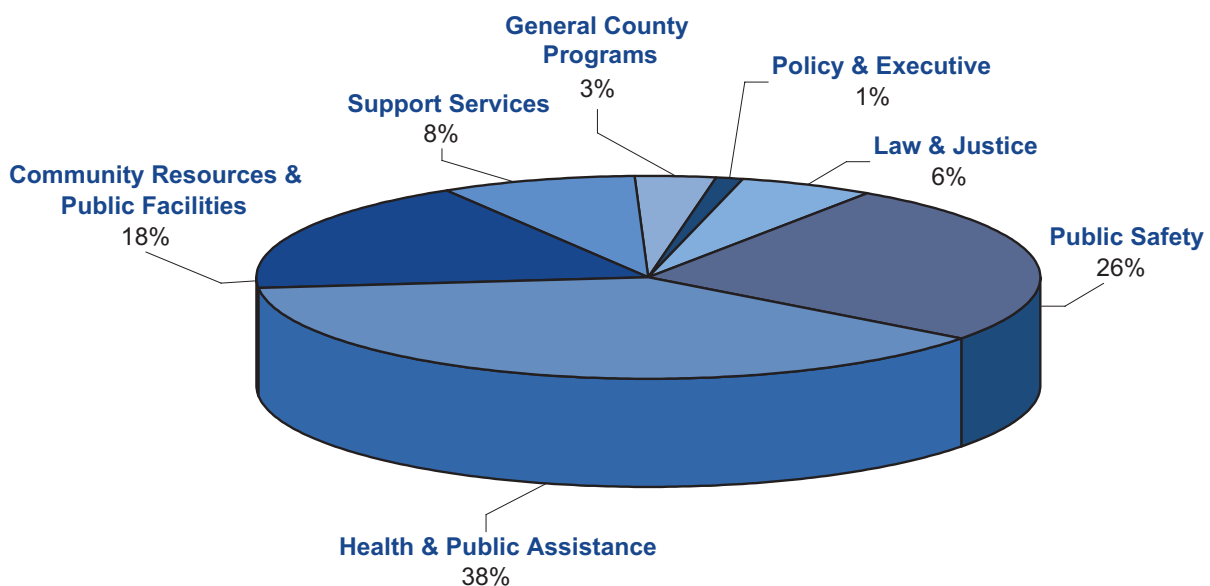


# COUNTY BUDGET AT A GLANCE

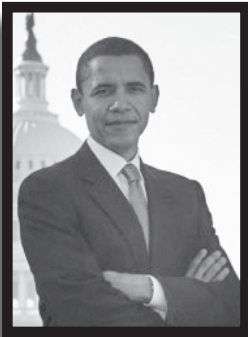
## SOURCE OF COUNTY REVENUE BY TYPE (\$792.8 million FY 2008-09 Recommended)



## COUNTY EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTIONAL AREA (\$792.8 million FY 2008-09 Recommended)



# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICIALS



**PRESIDENT BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA II**  
**44TH PRESIDENT OF THE US**

*Bio-* Previous occupation: US Senator. Elected in 2008.

**Key Issues-** revitalizing the economy, ending the war in Iraq, healthcare, US global leadership and homeland security.



**UNITED STATES SENATOR BARBARA BOXER**  
**110TH CONGRESS**  
*senator@boxer.senate.gov*

*Bio-* Previous occupation: Politician-10 years as member of the US House of Representatives. Elected to Senate in 1993. Committee assignments include Commerce, Science and Technology, Environment and Public Works (Chair) and Foreign Relations.

**Key Issues-** public education and after school programs, affordable health care and patient bill of rights, environmental issues including safe drinking water.



**UNITED STATES SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN**  
**110TH CONGRESS**  
*senator@feinstein.senate.gov*

*Bio-* Previous occupation: Politician- Member Board of Supervisors and Mayor, San Francisco. Elected to Senate in 1992. Committee assignments include Appropriations, Energy and Natural Resources, Intelligence, Judiciary and Rules and Administration.

**Key Issues-** crime victims rights, healthcare, economy, national security/homeland security, environmental issues including water supply and agriculture and education.



**CONGRESSWOMAN LOIS CAPPS**  
**23RD DISTRICT**  
*www.house.gov/writereps*

*Bio-* Previous occupation: Nurse, educator. Elected to Congress in 1998. Committee assignments include Committee on Energy and Commerce and National Resources.

**Key Issues-** budget, education, energy and environmental issues, public health, ending the war in Iraq, immigration, gas prices and health care issues.



**CONGRESSMAN ELTON GALLEGLY**  
**24TH DISTRICT**  
*steve.lavagrino@mail.house.gov*

*Bio-* Previous occupation: Businessman/real estate broker, politician. Elected to Congress in 1986. Committee assignments include International Relations, Judiciary and Resources Committee.

**Key Issues-** energy, national security/homeland security, illegal immigration and veterans' issues



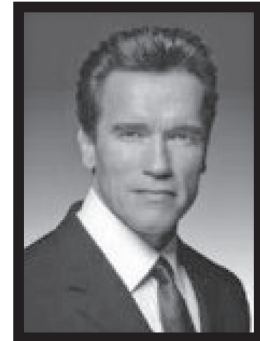


# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICIALS

## GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER 38TH GOVERNOR [governor@governor.ca.gov](mailto:governor@governor.ca.gov)

Bio- Previous occupation: Actor and bodybuilder. Promoter of Special Olympics, physical education and after-school programs. Elected in 2003 and re-elected in 2006.

**Key Issues-** budget and fiscal reform.



## CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR ABEL MALDONADO 15TH DISTRICT [senatormaldonado@sen.ca.gov](mailto:senatormaldonado@sen.ca.gov)

Bio- Previous occupation- Farmer, Politician. Elected to California Senate in 2004. Committee assignments include Agriculture (Vice-Chair), Education, Health, Budget and Fiscal Review, Human Services (Vice-Chair) and Veterans' Affairs.

**Key Issues-** agricultural and environmental issue, health and safety issues and accountability and transparency in government.



## CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR TONY STRICKLAND 19TH DISTRICT [info@tonystrickland.com](mailto:info@tonystrickland.com)

Bio- Previous occupation: CA State Assemblymember, business owner for renewable energy development. Elected to California Senate in 2008. Committee assignments include Energy, Utilities and Communications and Health (Vice-Chair).

**Key Issues-** protecting consumers, fiscal reform, two-year budget reform, redirecting our dependence on foreign oil, and education



## CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLYMAN SAM BLAKESLEE 33RD DISTRICT [assemblymember.blakeslee@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.blakeslee@assembly.ca.gov)

Bio- Previous occupation: Research scientist, owner of an investment firm. Elected to California Assembly in 2004. Committee assignments include Insurance Committee, Public Employees Retirement and Social Security, and Rules Committee.

**Key Issues-** energy planning/policy and environmental/conservation issues, fiscal issues, budget, tax, budget and electrol reform, renewable energy portfolio and seismic safety.



## CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLYMAN PEDRO NAVA 35TH DISTRICT [assemblymember.nava@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.nava@assembly.ca.gov)

Bio- Previous occupation: District attorney, civil litigator. Elected to California Assembly in 2004. Committee assignments include Banking & Finance Committee, Business & Professions and Health Committee.

**Key Issues-** emergency management and disaster preparedness/assistance, public safety and transportation.



# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY OFFICIALS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



## FIRST DISTRICT SUPERVISOR SALUD CARBAJAL

District includes the City of Carpinteria, portions of the City of Santa Barbara and the unincorporated areas of Carpinteria Valley, Summerland, Montecito, and Mission Canyon. National Association of Counties (NACO) representative.



## SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR JANET WOLF (VICE-CHAIR)

District includes portions of the Cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara, the unincorporated areas of the Goleta Valley and the Channel Islands. California State Association of Counties (CSAC) alternative representative.



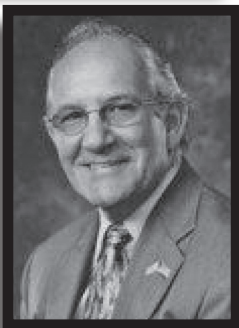
## THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR DOREEN FARR

District includes the Cities of Buellton, (portions of) Goleta, Solvang, and the unincorporated portions of the Gaviota Coast, Lompoc, Los Alamos and Santa Ynez Valley.



## FOURTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR JONI GRAY

District includes the Cities of Guadalupe and Lompoc and portions of the unincorporated areas of Santa Maria Valley, including Casmalia and Orcutt. California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Treasurer and County representative.



## FIFTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR JOSEPH CENTENO (CHAIR)

District includes the City of Santa Maria and the unincorporated areas of Sisquoc and Cuyama Valleys.





# COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE



Dear Reader:

The County of Santa Barbara is pleased to present its 2009 Legislative Platform. The various issues, programs and projects contained within this Platform ("the legislative priorities") represent key operational issues and projects facing departments and the County as a whole.

As in previous years, the County will continue to advocate for funding assistance for large-scale infrastructure projects that safeguard the public and promote a high-quality of life for residents. Through a continued partnership with neighboring cities and the federal government, the County looks forward to sustaining the progress made on repairing the Santa Maria Levee, improving the Lower Mission Creek Channel and renovating the historic Lompoc Veterans Memorial Building. Protecting the sewer lift and water treatment plant facilities at Lake Cachuma from a surcharge, or rise in the level of the lake, will continue to be priority. However, efforts to ameliorate a possible infestation of the Lake from the quagga mussel will be a new issue this year. Other quality of life issues pertaining to air quality (pollution from marine vessels), homelessness and beach access (Goleta Beach, Point Sal and Santa Claus Lane for example) are also included as part of the platform. At the federal level, reauthorization of transportation funding will be a focal point of the 2009 platform and the County will advocate for funding for various safety improvements and roadway surface treatment programs. The County also stands ready to start construction on various public safety and administration buildings and roadway projects should funding via a federal economic stimulus package materialize.

Delivering public safety, health and human assistance services is a fundamental function of the County. Accordingly advocating for stable, sufficient and timely federal and state funding for these services and programs is a vital component of the County's annual platform. In light of the current economic conditions facing all levels of government, the issue of withdrawing or suspending mandates is paramount. Similarly, the Legislature should uphold the will of the voters and continue to allocate Proposition 1A, Proposition 10 and Proposition 42 to their dedicated purposes and not suspend, "borrow" or divert these funds to balance the budget. In dealing with budgetary constraints, the County proposes that the State examine options readily available and used by local government including freezing of salaries; unpaid mandatory furloughs; retirement reform; workforce reduction; consolidation of programs and services, including city-county and regional partnerships; elimination of duplicate services and elimination of inefficient programs that do not achieve the intended outcomes.

With the economic downturn, the ability to raise revenues and fund programs is more challenging than before while the need for many of these programs and services is greater. The County appreciates the strong collaboration that currently exists with its federal and state representatives. Such a relationship will become even more valuable in the upcoming year as the ability to successfully navigate through such a fiscally constrained environment will require true partnership and intergovernmental cooperation among the local, state and federal governments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael F. Brown".

Michael F. Brown  
County Executive Officer



# 2008 PLATFORM PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE

The annual legislative platform identifies the major projects, programs and/or issues ("priorities") that are the focus of the County's advocacy efforts in its interactions with the federal and state governments. Sometimes these specific priorities change based on the economic and legislative climate in Washington DC and Sacramento and other unforeseeable events. Each year, the performance of the County's intergovernmental relations and legislative advocacy program is evaluated to measure the results of its program. It also assists the County in determining its priorities for the upcoming year. Any successful outcome of the legislative platform could not be achieved without the cooperation, collaboration and assistance of the County's neighboring cities, associations like CSAC and NACO, partnering federal and state agencies and, ultimately, the County's federal and state representatives.

The emphasis of the 2008 platform as it relates to the federal government has been to secure funding for large public safety related infrastructures projects that have a federal nexus as noted below:

Project	Requested Funding	Funding Amount in House Appropriations	Funding Amount in Senate Appropriations
Cuyama Pool	\$2M		\$0
Goleta Beach	\$300K		\$150K
Lake Cachuma	\$2.2M		\$400K
Mission Creek	\$4.5M	\$250K	\$400K
Santa Maria Levee	\$8.5M	\$8.5M	\$6M
Veterans Building	\$865K		\$850K
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18.3M</b>	<b>\$8.8M</b>	<b>\$7.8M</b>

Due to difficulties in balancing the State budget, the focus of the 2008 platform became maintaining existing funding to programs instead of advocating for additional funding for social services and transportation (Safe Routes to Schools) programs. Key impacts of the Adopted State Budget on the County include:

- Reimbursement of \$1.5 Million for conducting the February 2008 special election
- Full funding of Proposition 42 (transportation) of \$3.5 Million to the County
- Loss of \$2.4 Million to CalWORKs (welfare to work) program

The County secured sponsors for its bills: SB 1453 (Senator Maldonado) pertaining to the composition of the board of trustees of public cemetery districts and AB 1900 (Assemblymember Nava) pertaining to the Maddy EMS Fund. AB 1900 was chaptered and extends the sunset date of the County's Maddy EMS Fund two years until January 1, 2011. This bill allows the County to continue to collect approximately \$600,000 annually on alcohol and drug related motor vehicles violations to partially compensate health care providers for otherwise uncompensated emergency medical services. The County also tried to introduce legislation to profit-share oil royalty revenues with State for the PXP Tranquillon Ridge project, but such legislation did not come to fruition.



# LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

The Legislative Platform adheres to the County's legislative principles, which were adopted by the the Legislative Program Committee in prior years. These serve as a guide for the County in developing a position on any forthcoming federal and state legislation and/or budget proposals.

## EFFICIENT SERVICE DELIVERY/OPERATIONS

Support efforts to streamline processes and promote operational enhancements germane to County departments' missions and core services, and correspondingly, oppose legislation that creates undue fiscal and operational burdens on departments.

## FISCAL STABILITY

Support efforts to generate new intergovernmental revenue and/or enhance existing revenue/reimbursement levels and oppose the loss of, or redirecting of, existing revenue and/or the creation of additional unfunded mandates to the County.

## INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

Partner with neighboring cities on infrastructure and other large-scale projects when possible. Support the advocacy efforts of such organizations as the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the National Association of Counties (NACO), Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), First 5 Santa Barbara, the Kid's Network and other local and regional agencies. Collaborate with other institutions and entities on mutually beneficial issues while upholding the other principles of efficient service delivery and operations, fiscal stability and local control.

## LOCAL CONTROL

Ensure local authority and control over governance issues, land use policies and the delivery of services, including flexibility and customization in designing and implementing policies and services that are responsive to the community's preferences.





# FEDERAL PRIORITIES AT A GLANCE

## AGENCY COLLABORATION AND FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE/PROJECTS

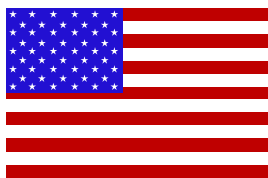
- Protection from flooding via Repairing the Santa Maria Levee
- Protection from flooding via Lower Mission Creek Channel Improvements
- Replacement of facilities due to Surcharge at Lake Cachuma
- Protection from beach erosion at Goleta Beach County Park
- Renovations and repairs to the Lompoc Veterans Memorial Building
- Construction of Emergency Operation Center and related software
- Demonstration projects for surface treatment projects, circulation and safety improvement projects for Transportation
- Public access to Point Sal Reserve

## FUNDING FOR EXISTING PROGRAMS

- Adult Protective Services via the Elder Justice Act
- Center for Disease Control Disaster Preparedness Grants
- Reimbursement rates for Medicare
- McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- Invasive species funding targeted to the quagga mussel
- Assistance to Firefighters, COPS and Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance grants to fund public safety and criminal justice
- SCAAP
- SCHIP

## PROGRAMMATIC AND/OR REGULATORY REFORM

- Air Pollution via emissions from marine vessels
- Welfare to Work Participation Rates (impacts County CalWORKS funding)
- Inmate limitations on health benefits while in custody
- Laws pertaining to HIPAA, security and privacy impede efforts to share client data between providers/ departments (Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services, Public Health and Social Services)
- Inclusion of undocumented minors in juvenile halls/facilities under SCAAP



# STATE PRIORITIES AT A GLANCE

## AGENCY COLLABORATION AND FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE/PROJECTS

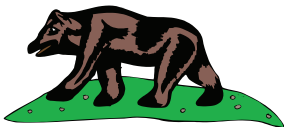
- Protection from beach erosion at Goleta Beach County Park
- Development and Coastal Commission approval of Walter Capps County Park
- Safe public beach access at Santa Claus Lane
- Protection of open space, including the Gaviota Coast
- Protection from flooding via Lower Mission Creek Channel Improvements
- Protection from flooding via repairing the Santa Maria Levee
- Surface treatment projects, circulation and safety improvement projects for transportation
- Construction of jail facility

## FUNDING FOR EXISTING PROGRAMS

- Social service programs including Adult Protective Services and CalWORKS
- Increased reimbursement rates for Medi-Cal
- Homeless programs and supportive programs related to housing, mental health and transitional youth
- Grants to fund emergency response, criminal justice and public safety
- Protection of funding for children age 0-5 (Proposition 10)
- Protection of transportation funding (Proposition 42)
- Adequate funding for mandated services

## PROGRAMMATIC AND/OR REGULATORY REFORM

- Cover the cost of digital mammograms in the Cancer Detection Program
- Provide property tax disaster relief in wake of Tea Fire
- Extend the timeframe for reaffirmation of locally declared disaster
- Require mitigation of impacts of State institutions, namely institutes of higher education, to local governments to offset property tax loss and/or the cost of providing services to campuses and surrounding areas
- Require timely reimbursements for mandated services
- Require comprehensive review and potential suspension of mandates





# 2009

## PRIORITIES



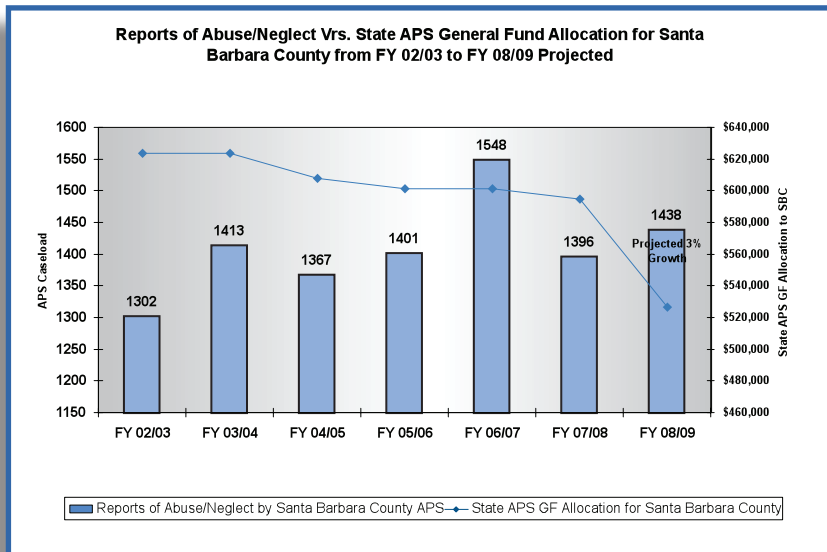
# ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Adult Protective Services Program (APS) responds to reports of neglect (by others and/or self) or financial, physical, sexual or psychological abuse of elderly and/or disabled adults. As a mandated program of the State, the County receives funding from the State based on the County's percentage of elderly and disabled adult populations. State funding has steadily declined since 1999 and requires an adjustment to reflect the growing caseload.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

In FY 2007, APS responded to nearly 1,400 reports or referrals involving suspected abuse or neglect of elderly or dependent adults. As noted in the chart to the left, in FY 07/08 the County experienced a 7.2% increase in reports of abuse/neglect since FY 02/03. County APS funding has declined by 16% from FY 02/03 to FY 08/09. DSS is projecting a 3% growth in APS reports of abuse and neglect for FY 08/09.



This projection is believed to be conservative in light of the current economic instability, where reports of financial abuse and neglect may increase. Should the trend of increased growth and decreased allocations continue and County staffing remain constant, the County will only be able to respond to the most critical cases of abuse and neglect, which may delay or curtail its ability to respond to other cases. Lack of intervention from APS will result in a drain of other critical community resources such as hospital emergency rooms, ambulance services, Police and Sheriff's Departments, Fire Departments, charitable

organizations, and County Mental Health services. Lack of intervention by APS may result in physical or mental harm, loss of financial stability and increased need for public assistance, institutionalization, and death.

## COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The State has allocated \$45 million toward APS (a 10% reduction from FY 07/08); the County receives \$526,427 (an 11.5% reduction from FY 07/08) for FY 08/09. However, the State benefits from funding APS as elder and dependent adult abuse is costly to victims and to society. Victims may face premature and costly institutional care and may rely on public benefits and strain other county department resources.

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation and members of the Budget Committee enhance, or at a minimum, maintain, the level of funding for this program during the State FY 09/10 Budget. (In FY 07/08, a proposal to (1) enhance funding by \$12 million and (2) include actual caseload data into a formula was introduced and passed by the Legislature, but vetoed by the Governor.)

The County requests its federal delegation to support federal legislation known as the Elder Justice Act to provide federal funding to states to prevent elder abuse, increase prosecution of those who mistreat the elderly and provide victim assistance.

## CONTACT:

Kathy Gallagher, Director, Department of Social Services, 805.681.4451



# AIR QUALITY - MARINE VESSEL EMISSIONS

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Ocean-going marine vessels traversing the Santa Barbara Channel produce over 45 percent of the nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions that impact the County, threatening air quality and public health as well as constraining the County's ability to attain and maintain federal and state standards for ozone and particulates. The County seeks assistance in regulating ocean-going marine vessel engines and fuels by adopting new emission standards.

In 2005, ocean-going marine vessels made 7,086 transits along the 130 miles coastline of Santa Barbara County producing 14,918 tons of NOx, or 45% of the total NOx emission that year. Analysis of this activity reveals that ten percent of the vessels produced 50 percent of the emissions and 92 percent of the emissions came from foreign flagged ships<sup>1</sup>. The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District) has estimated that by 2020 ocean-going marine vessel traffic in the Santa Barbara Channel will produce nearly 75% of the NOx emissions that impact the County. The increase in vessels transiting the Southern California coast is a result of the State's role as a major point of entry and departure for trade between the US and Asia.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Ocean-going marine vessels represent a major source of uncontrolled air pollution that contribute to both local and worldwide emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, sulfur, air toxics, and greenhouse gases. These emissions represent a serious threat to air quality and public health.

## COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

This is largely a regulatory function, although there are proposals to provide financial incentives to vessel operators as a way to reduce emissions. There may be indirect costs to local governments that are required to attain and maintain federal and state standards for air quality and greenhouse gas reductions, despite having no local control over ocean-going marine vessel emissions.

## CLEAN AIR ACT, SECTION 213

Congress adopted Section 213 as part of the 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act, thereby creating a mandatory duty for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate large ocean going marine vessels, also known as "Category 3" vessels. If EPA had timely fulfilled its duty under the Act, EPA would have adopted emission standards for new Category 3 engines in 1993. To date, however, EPA has failed to take any substantive action. Rather, EPA has been recalcitrant in fulfilling this duty, notwithstanding the fact that since 1993 five separate lawsuits have been filed attempting to force EPA to do its duty. EPA's latest action in December 2007 was the most disappointing when EPA essentially adopted a "do nothing rule" that simply gave itself more time (until December 2009) to act on the Congressional mandate. This last action prompted lawsuits by the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, South Coast Air Quality Management District, and the Friends of the Earth, which were consolidated and heard by the federal Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in October 2008. A decision is expected in the next one to three months. It must be stressed, however, that while the federal court can order EPA to take action, the substance of that action is up to EPA. Section 213 prescribes minimum requirements that EPA must meet in adopting standards for Category 3 marine vessels. If EPA adopts standards that do not meet this mandate (either lax standards or excessively long compliance dates), then further litigation is likely and an extremely valuable opportunity to reduce air pollution from new Category 3 marine vessels will once again be lost.

<sup>1</sup> See "Next Challenge on the Horizon: Air Pollution Emissions from Ships" written by Terry Dressler, Tom Murphy and Anthony Fournier. Terry Dressler is Director and Air Pollution Control Officer of Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District.



# AIR QUALITY - MARINE VESSEL EMISSIONS

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests its delegation support efforts to achieve the following critical goals:

- Adopt laws to reduce emissions from ocean-going marine vessels through regulatory and/or economic incentives. For example, Senator Boxer has introduced (cosponsored by Senator Feinstein) S 1499 to require the Environmental Protection Agency to establish standards to reduce emissions of air pollutants from marine vessels, including requiring marine vessels to use fuel that contains not more than 1,000 parts per million of sulfur in the main and auxiliary engines of the vessels, effective on December 31, 2010.
- Following the signing of H.R. 802 (Public Law 110-280: July 21, 2008) into law that adopts the MARPOL Annex VI treaty, the delegation should support a federal government application to the International Maritime Organization to be designated as an "Emission Control Area."
- The State should also continue to examine the role of shipping vessels as part of strategies to reduce criteria pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions, including the issue of state control over this large source of emissions.
- Finally, efforts should be made to encourage and support EPA to adopt fair but tough standards under Section 213 of the Clean Air Act for ocean-going marine vessels.

## CONTACT:

Terri Maus Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer, County Executive Office 805.568.3412.





# CALWORKS/WELFARE-TO-WORK

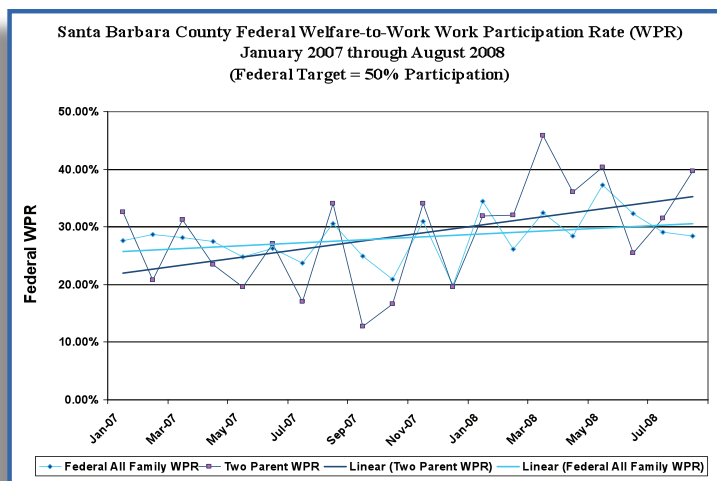
## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The challenge of meeting inconsistent performance targets within the regulations issued by the State and Federal Government for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program is difficult. The Federal TANF Reauthorization in 2005 has impacted the CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work program significantly by requiring full participation for 50% of all individuals who are eligible to work. This change resulted in adding populations into the requirement that were previously not considered, including many adults in which the children were the sole recipients of assistance. Reauthorization also imposed very specific parameters on what activities are allowable, and how those activities must be verified. These Federal requirements have created challenges across the State, as clients are participating and following guidelines. In addition, the State regulations do not mirror the Federal regulations, and the inability to track activities if full participation is not reached is a huge hurdle that all California counties face.

Santa Barbara County FFY 2007 average Work Participation Rate (WPR) for all families is 26.1%, compared to a statewide average of 22.3%; and 26.8% for two parent families, compared to 27.6% statewide average. Prior to the formula changes mentioned above, the County's FFY 2006 average WPR was 44.82%. As a result of TANF reauthorization and insufficient participation rates, multiple strategies were implemented by County Social Services in October of 2007 to address necessary changes to improve the Federal Welfare-to-Work Work Participation Rate (WPR), which included a change in business processes requiring detailed case reviews by staff and dedicating units to re-engaging sanctioned clients.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

As depicted in the adjacent chart, executed strategies have been successful in improving the WPR but Santa Barbara County, like all counties, continues to struggle with the challenge of complying with State and Federal regulations. At the same time, significant funding cuts have been made by the Governor on CalWORKs and Employment Services funding that impacts staffing levels and supportive services, which hampers the progress made to date. As a result, counties are faced with policy decisions that will impact client services and the WPR and possibly lead to county sanctions. These cuts almost certainly will translate into delays in processing applications and issuing checks; fewer clients finding jobs; and slashing programs such as housing and education help and domestic violence counseling.



## COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The current required participation rate will not be met statewide and State Legislation requires that counties participate in the required fiscal sanction. It is unclear on how sanctions will be passed down and if counties will get credit for the WPR that is achieved or if the sanctions will be distributed evenly among counties regardless of their WPR.

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation restore the level of funding for this program to pre-FY 08/09 status during the State FY 09/10 Budget and explore the possibility of seeking options to relieve counties from mandates (extend timelines for service delivery, minimize penalties for not meeting mandates including WPR sanction penalties, etc.) in FY 08/09 and FY 09/10 if funding is not restored. In addition, the County requests advocacy at the Federal level for a rollback of the Bush administration changes to the WPR formula and calculation.

## CONTACT:

Kathy Gallagher, Director, Department of Social Services, 805.681.4451



# CANCER DETECTION PROGRAM

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The California Department of Public Health provides free breast and cervical cancer screening and other diagnostic services for low-income, eligible, uninsured women age 40 years and older through its Cancer Detection Program (CDP) Every Woman Counts (EWC) program. This program is administered locally through the Public Health Department's (PHD) Tri-Counties Cancer Detection Partnership. However, the program currently reimburses only for screening done by analog mammography. The County is seeking assistance in allowing digital mammography screening to also be covered under this program.



An analog mammography stores images directly on the film while a digital mammography takes an electronic image of the breast and stores it in a computer.

Electronic storage allows the recorded data to be enhanced, magnified, or manipulated for further evaluation. Many mammography facilities have already converted to digital mammography, leaving large areas without an analog mammography provider to serve CDP clients. CDP clients in impacted (digital-only) areas include the entire Santa Maria area and San Luis Obispo County. Lompoc Hospital is scheduled to convert to digital by early 2009. Therefore, CDP clients must travel south to the nearest analog screening service (Cottage Hospital – Santa Ynez mammography facility) to obtain services through CDP. As a result, many women will find it difficult to obtain a mammogram and will fail to complete their breast cancer screening.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

PHD estimates there to be about 2,248 regional CDP clients currently impacted by the lack of access to a mammography facility. This includes the entire Santa Maria area (about 960 annually), Lompoc (about 430 annually), and San Luis Obispo County (about 838 annually). If women do not undertake breast cancer screening because it is too prohibitive to locate a facility, then early detection may be compromised. Early cancer detection saves money because of lower costs for diagnosis and treatment at earlier stages of cancer. To ease the burden on affected Santa Barbara County clients and minimize travel, in October 2008 PHD made arrangements to pay the radiologist's professional fee for the reading of digital mammograms in Santa Maria, using Tobacco Settlement Advisory Committee (TSAC) program funds. The fees were paid at the reduced Medi-Cal rate of \$62.59 per client, for a total of \$60,086.

## COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

According to the State Assembly Committee on Appropriations (April 2008), the cost to provide digital mammograms to 15% of the 270,000 women enrolled within the EWC program would cost \$2.3 million in special funds, federal funds and grants. An analog mammogram costs \$70 while a digital mammogram costs \$133. It should be noted that the Medi-Cal program provides coverage for digital mammograms.

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests its delegation propose and/or support legislation to amend Section 104150 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to cancer, to require CDPH, CDS, CDP: EWC to cover digital mammography when analog mammography services are not available within a reasonable geographic area (similar to AB 2887, Breast and Cervical Cancer: Early Detection Program: Digital Mammography) introduced in the 2007-2008 legislative session).

## CONTACT:

Michele Mickiewicz, Deputy Director, Community Health, Public Health Department, 805.681.5446



# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FUNDING

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County's Public Health Department (PHD) has received funding for public health preparedness and response to public health emergencies and other types of health disasters from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) which has enabled the County to improve its disaster response infrastructure to levels higher than those prior to 9/11/01. In order to comply with federal and state benchmarks, PHD has increased staff, upgraded facilities, and purchased equipment and supplies. However, this state of readiness cannot be sustained without continued funding for nominal staffing levels and equipment and systems maintenance.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/ IMPACT

PHD has established infrastructure to exchange critical health data, conducting training on disease investigation, pandemic influenza, bioterrorism agents, emergency response procedures and disaster management command structures and written plans and implemented standardized drill and exercise procedures. A reduction in funding will result in less frequent or intensive training and drilling exercises, deferred purchase and maintenance of equipment and decreased spending on communication.

## COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

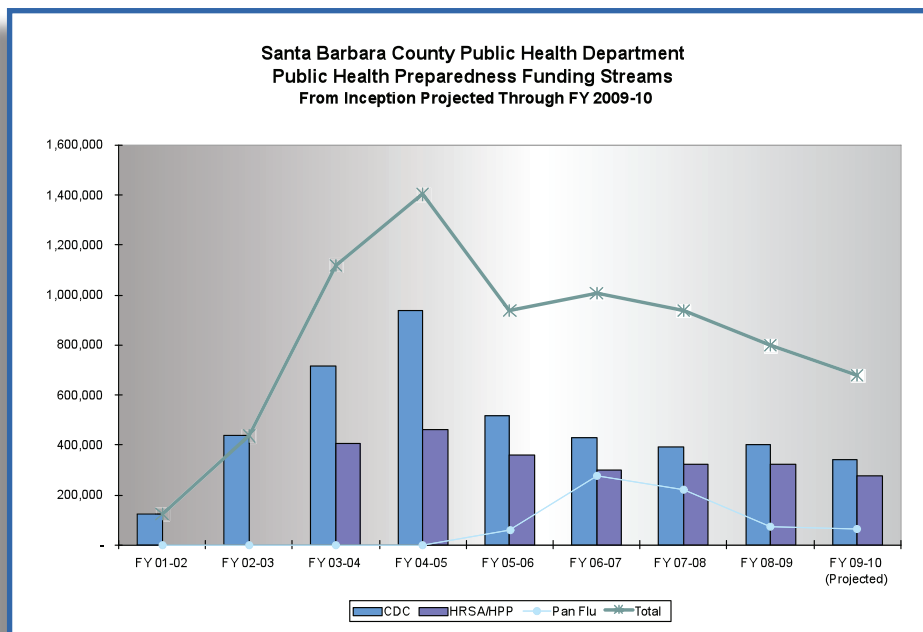
PHD anticipates that it requires \$400,000 per year in public health funds and \$325,000 in pass through of hospital preparedness funds in order to maintain communication systems, disaster caches, and personnel training and exercises to insure ongoing preparedness for bioterrorism, pandemics and public health emergencies/disasters.

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation support enhancing, or at a minimum, maintaining, the level of funding allocated to the CDC specifically for this purpose within the federal budget. The County is also interested in exploring other funding options for the specific communication and training items contained within this budget.

## CONTACT:

Michele Mickiewicz, Deputy Director, Community Health, Public Health Department, 805.681.5446



# DISASTER RELIEF

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Santa Barbara County has experienced numerous natural disasters pertaining to fires and floods in recent years, including the Tea Fire in November 2008 that destroyed 210 residential structures and damaged nine other homes. Given that the assessed value of these structures has been diminished, the County is seeking legislative assistance to compensate for the loss of property taxes associated with these homes.

After managing three major wildfires from July 2007-November 2008, the County is quite familiar with the protocol required in declaring a disaster. The County seeks legislative assistance in extending the amount of time that has elapsed before a governing body is required to reaffirm a local emergency proclamation.

The Board of Supervisors declares a local emergency, which may result in the Governor proclaiming a state of emergency and then the President declaring a federal disaster. Government Code Section 8630 requires that the governing body of a city, county, or city and county review the need for continuing the local emergency at least every 14 days until the local emergency is terminated. Given the duration of fire suppression activities as well as related fire recovery and flood prevention/planning efforts, the locally declared emergency may last for several weeks or months. This requirement becomes an administrative burden to local OES staff---staff that are already taxed with other aspects of managing the disaster and often leads to special meetings of the Board for the sole purpose of reaffirming the local emergency resolution. The County wishes to amend the Government Code to allow a greater amount of time to elapse before reaffirmation of the local emergency proclamation.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

If legislation regarding property tax relief is passed, the County will receive reimbursement from the State for the forgone loss of property taxes from damaged/destroyed homes and use these funds to continue to provide for a wide range of public safety and health and human service programs to residents.

## COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Property tax relief would result in an increased cost to the State. However, the County is still required to provide a wide variety of services during and after the disaster, which foregone property tax revenues would contribute to funding. There is no foreseeable cost to any level of government of extending the timeframe required to elapse before a governing body reaffirms a local declared emergency.

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests its delegation sponsor and/or support legislation to (1) provide for the reimbursement of property tax losses incurred from damaged and destroyed homes in the wake of the Tea Fire and (2) amend the stipulated timeframe found in Government Code Section 8630 to a greater timeframe such as a month. Assemblymember Nava introduced Assembly Bill 50 on December 1, 2008 to provide for disaster relief assistance—the County requests its delegation actively support the passage of this bill.

## CONTACT:

Michael Harris, Emergency Operations Chief, County Office of Emergency Services, 805.560.1081





# GOLETA BEACH COUNTY PARK

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Goleta Beach County Park is a 29-acre park located in the unincorporated area of Goleta near the University of California at Santa Barbara. With over 1.5 million visitors a year, Goleta Beach attracts the most visitors of all the County's 23 parks. Several major storms have eroded the beach at the Park, resulting in the loss of turf and other park amenities. The County is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to study beach stabilization options.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The average visitation count annually to Goleta Beach County Park over the past five years is 1,500,000. The Park includes a 1,500 ft pier, a restaurant and snack bar, three sets of restrooms, picnic and barbeque facilities, play equipment, parking, ranger residences and maintenance area, and a large turf area. In response to storm events, emergency rock revetments have been constructed and the beach nourished by depositing sand dredged from local streams onto the beach.



## COST TO GOVERNMENT

Approximately \$1.3 million has been spent since 1999 on efforts to install and remove emergency rock revetments to protect the park, permit applications and associated field condition monitoring, public community planning process and environmental document preparation. Funding for these efforts has included the County's General Fund, state and local grant funds and FEMA (funding after the 2005 storms). The County intends to pursue options to stabilize the beach.

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests support of this project from its delegation as the County has filed a Coastal Development Permit application for the Goleta Beach Park CARE Program - Beach Sand Stabilization with the California State Coastal Commission. Other regulatory agencies that have permit authority over work along the coastline and similar permit conditions for a long term plan for the Park include State Lands Commission, Army Corp of Engineers and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

## CONTACT:

Dan Hernandez, Director, Parks Department, 805.568.2475



# HEALTH ISSUES

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

In addition to the specific issues of disaster preparedness funding, cancer detection program digital mammogram funding and SCHIP, there are other issues under the topic of Health that are of importance to the County as noted below:

- **Reimbursement Rates for Medicare and Medi-Cal:** The level of reimbursement to providers, whether it be the County itself (the County's seven clinic system is a Federally Qualified Health Center) or to the hospitals and physicians in the County, should increase.
- **Inmate Eligibility for Health Programs:** (1) Remove inmate limitations on Medicaid, Medicare and SSI benefits for persons in custody pending disposition of charges and (2) Include juvenile detainees in custody as part of these programs.
- **Health IT/Emergency Medical Records:** The procurement and implementation of an Electronic Health Record system would assist in enhancing the quality, safety and efficiencies of the County's seven clinic system (estimated to cost \$2.2 Million).
- **Health Integration:** Promote greater integration of mental health and substance abuse treatment services into jail and juvenile hall settings, including enhancement of co-occurring treatment capacity.
- **Healthcare Interoperability:** The ability to identify and coordinate care of clients among multiple service organizations (Public Health, Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services and Social Services) is challenging. Laws pertaining to security, privacy and health (HIPAA), while designed to protect individuals, are an impediment to sharing client data among providers.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

- Reimbursement rates consistent with the true cost of providing medical treatment is one way to ensure that providers continue to accept new patients and treat existing patients that are covered by Medicare and Medi-Cal. As the number of physicians and hospitals that do not accept these types of insurance increase, patients will lose access to specialists, be forced to travel to other locations where treatment is available and/or forgo routine checkups and prevention, which may result in an increased use of emergency rooms and more expensive long-term treatment.
- Information Technology systems promote efficiency, enhance the continuum of care among different providers and minimize the risk of administering improper prescriptions.

## COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Government costs would increase if reimbursement rates rose; however, people with adequate reimbursement may ensure providers to continue to accept government insurance. The federal government would incur costs by removing limitations on inmate access to programs; yet, the costs of treating inmates is borne by local governments instead. Changes in regulations and laws to promote interoperability of healthcare systems are not cost prohibitive to government and could result in data sharing that leads to greater cost savings and efficiencies and better patient/client outcomes.

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests its delegation support legislation that would address these specific issues and advocate for increased funding for reimbursement rates and healthcare-related IT.

## CONTACT:

Michele Mickiewicz, Deputy Director, Community Health, Public Health Department, 805.681.5446 and Daniel Milei, Director, IT Department, 805.568.2671



# HOMELESSNESS

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County participated with various cities and community organizations to draft “Bringing Our Community Home: the Santa Barbara County-wide 10-Year Plan To End Chronic Homelessness” in 2006. The County seeks funding support to implement this plan, including financing a comprehensive system of housing, services and treatment.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

According to the Plan, each year more than 6,300 people in Santa Barbara experience homelessness; on any given night, over 4,000 people are homeless. Of the people who are homeless, 10-15%, or as many as 945 people, are chronically homeless. Santa Barbara County’s chronically homeless population is composed of single adults and families with children who have either been continuously homeless for a year or more or have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years, have a disabling condition and have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g. living on the streets) or in an emergency shelter during that time. Many of these individuals have serious mental illnesses; two-thirds of all people with serious mental illness have been homeless or have been at risk of being homeless at some point in their lives.

## COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

As stated within the Plan, chronically homeless people consume more than 50% of all the services provided to homeless people due to their continued movement through the service system without obtaining the help they need. Chronically homeless individuals are also frequent users of other costly public services, such as hospital emergency rooms, psych emergency wards and the criminal justice system. Chronic homelessness is expensive, but these costs can be reduced and chronic homelessness can be eradicated through the provision of permanent supportive housing. Studies have demonstrated that providing people with permanent supportive housing is the most humane and cost-effective way to end chronic homelessness.

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation support existing and new legislation to address the issue of homelessness and support funding of housing, services and treatment programs to end chronic homelessness. Specifically, the County requests its delegation support the reauthorization of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and support legislation such as the Community Partnership to End Homelessness Act (S 1518). Given the nexus to homelessness, the County requests its delegation support funding for mental health treatment services as well as programs such as the Transitional Housing Plus (THP+) that provides funding for transitional housing for emancipated youth.

## CONTACT:

Terri Maus Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, 805.568.3412



# LAKE CACHUMA

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

As a result of a biological opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Federal Bureau of Reclamation has evaluated the impacts of raising Lake Cachuma to capture, retain and subsequently release additional water for the protection of habitat for the endangered steelhead trout. This surcharge will impact various existing improvements around the lake.

Project Component	Bureau Cost	County Cost	Total Cost
New Water Treatment Plant	\$2,200,000	\$800,000	\$3,000,000
Sewer Lift Stations Relocation and Upgrades(3)	\$1,309,300	\$289,300	\$1,598,600
Live Oak Camp Permanent Restroom	\$300,000	\$50,000	\$350,000
Water Reservoir Improvements	\$1,006,600	\$0	\$1,006,600
Water Distribution System Improvements	\$900,000	\$0	\$900,000
Fire Flow Improvements	\$460,000	\$0	\$460,000
Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrades	\$1,600,000	\$0	\$1,600,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,775,900</b>	<b>\$1,139,300</b>	<b>\$8,915,200</b>

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The County provides an array of recreational amenities including boating, fishing, camping (tent, RV and yurt), seasonal naturalist programs and nature cruises to visitors year-round at Lake Cachuma.

## COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The County and the Bureau of Reclamation have executed a long-term assistance agreement. The Federal Bureau of Reclamation constructed Bradbury Dam in the 1950's forming Lake Cachuma. The dam was constructed under contract with the Santa Barbara County Water Agency on behalf of the Cachuma Project Member Units for the purpose of providing irrigation, domestic and industrial water supplies to the member units. The Bureau owns all "project" facilities and operates Bradbury Dam. Remaining cost of facility replacement is \$9 Million, of which \$7.8 Million is allocated to the Bureau and \$1.1 Million to the County.

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests its delegation support funding for the cost of replacing the facilities.

## CONTACT:

Dan Hernandez, Director, Parks Department, 805.568.2475





# LAKE CACHUMA: QUAGGA MUSSEL

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The quagga mussel is a non-native aquatic mollusk that threatens freshwater lakes throughout the United States, including Lake Cachuma. The County has implemented inspection and treatment protocols to prevent the introduction of the mussel through infested boats that recreate at Lake Cachuma, rather than disallow boating on the Lake. However, a comprehensive mussel prevention program is expensive to maintain and requires funding assistance.

Quagga mussels were introduced into the Great Lakes region in 1988 through ballast water emptied from ships, then spread throughout the Midwest and the eastern portion of the United States and finally discovered in California in Lake Mead and the Colorado River system in January 2007. The spread of the quagga mussel in Southern California is believed to have advanced through aqueducts and canals via water conveyance systems, but the mussel can also be spread by mussels that have adhered to surfaces, such as boat hulls.

Quagga mussels cause the greatest economic damage when they infest pipes, pumps, or other components of municipal and industrial water supply systems, or power plant cooling systems. Once a water system is infested, the measures required to eradicate the quagga mussel can have serious detrimental effects on the ecosystem of a freshwater lake or river.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) constructed Cachuma Lake and Bradbury Dam in the early 1950's as part of the Cachuma Project. Under a contract between USBR and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency, USBR furnishes Cachuma Project water districts and agencies throughout the county. Thus, any potential loss of water supply or water contamination at its source in Cachuma Lake, or at subsequent piping and water distribution facilities, poses a serious threat to potable water supplies and agriculture for hundreds of thousands of people in Santa Barbara County. Lake Cachuma also provides various recreational opportunities, including boating, fishing and camping, to residents and visitors. Unlike other lakes in the area, the County has implemented inspection/treatment protocols to allow the Lake to remain open to boating.

## COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The County may continue to implement this inspection and treatment program at the Lake or opt to close the Lake to private boats. The County Parks Department receives \$560,000 annually through daily and annual boat fees, which is used for maintenance operations. The Parks Department has also received a grant from the State Department of Boating and Waterways (\$2.7 Million) for a new boat launch that is currently under construction. Should private boating no longer be viable due to the possible threat of boats carrying mussels to the Lake, the County may be required to pay back the grant.

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests assistance in the funding of efforts to eradicate the mussel from all freshwater bodies of water. The County also requests assistance in securing funding for a comprehensive mussel prevention program of outreach, information, inspection, monitoring and treatment protocols at Lake Cachuma.

## CONTACT:

Dan Hernandez, Director, Parks Department, 805.568.2475



# MANDATE REIMBURSEMENT AND RELIEF

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County's guiding principles of efficient and effective service delivery, fiscal stability and local control directly apply to the issue of mandates. While the funding of mandates has been a hallmark of the legislative platform, it is of greater emphasis given the economic downturn.

- **Proposition 1A:** The County supports the provisions of Proposition 1A, passed in 2004, that provides Constitutional protection of local governments' revenues (property tax, sales tax and vehicle license fee) and requires the Legislature to fully fund or suspend reimbursable local mandates. The County opposes the borrowing of Proposition 1A funds.
- **Funding of Mandates:** The funding of mandates involves the methodology for determining funding levels, the timeliness of funding/reimbursement and the penalties associated with mandated services.
  - State should appropriate sufficient funds prior to requiring new or increased services, including funding for compliance with new mandates such as the recent climate change legislation (AB32) and emissions reduction-regional planning legislation (SB375). Efforts to fund local governments through the energy efficiency and conservation block grant should be supported at the federal and state level;
  - State should index services that do receive funding to population, caseload growth and/or inflation to keep up with the true cost of providing services; specifically in the areas of health and human services and transportation;
  - Formulas for determining reimbursement should be reconsidered; for example reimbursement for prosecution and criminal defense of homicide and capital (death penalty) cases should be based on actual costs, not population;
  - Mandates should be reimbursed in a timely manner and interest paid when reimbursements are not forthcoming;
  - If the State is unable to fulfill these requirements, then performance-based penalties should not be imposed upon counties.
- **Review and Suspension of Mandates:** The County supports a cost-benefit analysis of mandated programs to determine the fiscal and operational feasibility of programs. Examples may include the following:
  - **Civil Grand Jury:** The LAO may consider completing a study of the civil grand jury, comparing its authority to conduct civil investigations of county functions to the authority bestowed upon civil grand juries in other states; examining whether civil investigation is duplicative with other local government functions like an established whistleblower hotline and/or ombudsman program designed to investigate citizen complaints; determine if the State should specify an annual topic for review by all civil grand juries to promote uniformity among the State and allow for a benchmark comparison among counties; and determine whether a civil grand jury should be created for the State government as well. Moreover, since the fiscal responsibility of the courts has been transferred to the State via trial court funding, and the civil grand juries report findings to the presiding judge, then the fiscal responsibility of civil grand juries may also be transferred to the State.
  - **Housing Element:** Given the severity of the current economic downturn as well as the extraordinarily high rate of foreclosures, a temporary suspension of the mandate may be order. Local governments must be given an opportunity to re-position resources and programmatic efforts in order to maximize efforts to address the individualized characteristics of the regional housing markets. Without question, local governments share an obligation to plan for the existing and projected housing needs of all economic segments of the community, yet the unique economic climate calls for equally unique local solutions. Further, a temporary suspension of this mandate may be considered in light of the Census. The Census 2010 community profile provides a timing re-alignment that will provide a valuable new data set that is key to ensuring programs adapt to changing demographic conditions.



# MANDATE REIMBURSEMENT AND RELIEF

The housing element is one of seven mandated elements of the local general plan, and the only element that requires State review and certification. A temporary suspension of the mandate will also provide an opportunity to more closely align housing and transportation planning as envisioned under the regulatory requirements of SB375.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Proposition 1A is about \$10 million a year to the County and is used to fund public safety and justice functions as well as health and human assistance services. If Proposition 1A funds are borrowed by the Legislature, the County will decrease the services it provides to the residents.

## COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The County incurs the cost of performing many of the mandated functions required by the State because the State either does not provide reimbursement for the full cost of the service or the reimbursement is several years in arrears. Consequently, the County has to shift resources from other services and programs to pay for these mandates. For example, compliance with the Housing Element (2003-2008 Housing Element) cost the County over \$3 million to date.

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests its delegation opposes the borrowing of dedicated revenues (Propositions 1A, 10 and 42) supports efforts to fund cost-effective mandates, including requiring a comprehensive review of the cost-benefit ratio of mandates.

## CONTACT:

Terri Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, 805.568.3412.



# MISSION CREEK

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project is an Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) project located within the City of Santa Barbara (and part of the South Coast Flood Zone administered by the County) designed to improve channel locations through widening and bridge replacements in order to protect residential, commercial and public properties located in Santa Barbara from flooding. Portions of Mission Creek have been known to include the threatened tidewater goby and the endangered steelhead. The project is currently in detailed design phase and is in need of funding for construction.

Mission Creek's drainage is about 11.5 square miles, extending from the Santa Ynez Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, and flows for eight miles through the City of Santa Barbara. Preliminary design, environment review and detailed design have been performed. The project remains in detailed design phase until funding can be secured. The County and the City of Santa Barbara have formed a partnership to ensure this project continues to move forward.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Since Mission Creek is located in the heart of downtown Santa Barbara, improvements to the channel are vital for protecting residential, commercial, and public properties that are subject to major damages during floods. There will also be an opportunity for creek rehabilitation.

## COSTS TO THE GOVERNMENT

The project cost is estimated at \$57 million; the ACOE cost is 50% and the remaining half will be borne by the City of Santa Barbara and the County, with the County's portion coming from a flood zone benefit assessment. Federal appropriations would also help the County take advantage of potential State funding related to flood projects.

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County will complete the design phase as a result of a 2007 appropriation request. The next phase of the project involves construction, which is estimated to cost about \$10 million. The County will consult with the ACOE and submit an appropriation request to its Congressional delegation that funding be provided in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. It will also seek the support of its State delegation for possible funding from Proposition 84 monies.

## CONTACT:

Tom Fayram, Deputy Director of Flood Control/Water Resources, 805.568.3436





# PARKS/OPEN SPACE

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County Park Department provides services to approximately 5.6 million annual visitors to 71 day use parks and open space locations and two camping parks, and a network of trails and coastal access easements. Three specific projects pertaining to safe public access, one located on the South Coast, one located in Isla Vista and one located in the northern part of the County require significant intergovernmental coloration and cooperation to continue to develop and funding these parks. In addition to these specific parks, the County is interested in the protection of open space countywide and in the Gaviota Coast in particular and supports efforts to secure existing and new funding streams devoted to open space preservation. The County is supportive of efforts to both promote agriculture and protect open space such as the Williamson Act program and encourages the State to continue to provide subvention programs to counties for this program.

**1. SANTA CLAUS LANE BEACH ACCESS** This project will improve and provide for safe public access across Union Pacific Railroad tracks to a wide sandy beach area by: (a) acquiring of a railroad crossing with armatures, lights, bells and a stairway or access ramp through the existing seawall, (b) acquiring existing private beach parcels to ensure legal public use of the dry sand beach area, (c) identifying and constructing needed public improvements and amenities for beach users and (d) providing short term periodic access for opportunistic beach nourishment activities. Agencies involved include State Lands Commission, Union Pacific Railroad, CALTRANS and California Coastal Commission. Cost of \$2.8 Million.

**2. WALTER CAPPS COUNTY PARK** This project consists of the development of a two acre bluff top open space park in the community of Isla Vista. In March 2006, final acquisition was completed on five private parcels along Del Playa Drive in Isla Vista. Combined with adjacent County parcels, this small community park is proposed to be developed into a passive park facility with walks, benches, public restroom, turf play area and a native coastal species habitat restoration area. A memorial to the late Walter Capps is also proposed for the site. Requires California Coastal Commission approval. County has secured \$139,000 of the \$890,000 project cost (\$715,000 remaining).

**3. POINT SAL ACCESS AND MANAGEMENT PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION** This project proposes to allow public access to Point Sal "Reserve", which consist of 2,600 acres of publicly and privately-owned lands located in the northwestern corner of the County, along the coast. In 1991 an original management plan was developed with a vision that public agencies, conservation organizations and private citizens commit to coordinate their respective conservation efforts for this area. The management plan was then revised in 2002 under an internal administrative draft, to include parcels acquired by the County since the original 1991 plan. The County must now move forward in a more serious manner to evaluate, plan for and implement public access to this unique biological, cultural and scenic open space area. Generally the project will include 1) a detailed public access plan benefiting those lands currently under or soon to be under County ownership and 2) actual implementation/construction required to facilitate public access. This project requires the cooperation of Vandenberg Air Force Base. Costs include updating the management plan (\$50,000), implementing public access including vehicle improvements to the trailhead (\$2 Million) and pedestrian trail, signage and cattle control (\$350,000).

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

These projects enhance the opportunities of residents and visitors to the County to gain safe access to beaches, partake in recreational activities and learn more about natural habitat.

## COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The County has secured partial funding for many of these projects and is seeking funding and permitting assistance from the federal and state governments to ensure coastal access to residents.

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests support from its delegation to (1) assist the County in its interaction with other affected agencies and (2) identify funding opportunities for these projects.

## CONTACT:

Dan Hernandez, Director, Parks Department, 805.568.2475



# PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES FOR STATE INSTITUTIONS

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County forgoes property taxes for the various State institutions located within its boundary. In addition to the direct loss of property taxes (the State is exempt and does not pay taxes), the County also absorbs the cost of providing services to State institutions. If a State institution, such as the University, is required to grow to meet educational and enrollment goals set forth by the State, the County is expected to provide additional services and infrastructure in accordance with this projected growth without compensation from the University (another unfunded mandate per se). Therefore, the County seeks legislative support to (1) create a State grant in lieu of taxes for cities and counties wherein State-owned real property is located or (2) require appropriate mitigation to a city or county for services and infrastructure improvements necessary to accommodated planned University growth (long range development plan).

Summary of the LRDP Objectives				
	Existing	Proposed	Total by 2025	
<b>Student Enrollment</b>	20,000	+ 5,000	25,000	Students
<b>Faculty Population</b>	1,054	+ 300	1,354	Faculty
<b>Staff Population</b>	3,631	+ 1,400	5,031	Staff
<b>Academic Space</b>	2.9 Mil.	+ 1.6 Mil.	4.5 Mil.	ASF
<b>Student Bed Spaces</b>	6,663	+ 4,816	11,479	Student Bed Spaces
<b>Student Families Housing Units</b>	743	+ 184	927	Student Family Units
<b>Faculty/Staff Housing Units</b>	237	+ 1,798	2,035	Faculty/Staff Units
<b>Recreational</b>	26	+ 6	32	Acres
<b>Parking Spaces</b>	10,480	+ 3,653	14,133	Spaces
Source: UCSB LRDP Initial Study, May 2007				

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The proposed development of the University will bring new cultural, economic and social opportunities to the community; however, the population and building growth will require the County to provide additional services such as fire, law enforcement and transportation.

## COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The County completed an independent fiscal impact analysis that indicates the County spends \$3.2 million per year in governmental services in support of UCSB without compensation. This level of subsidy is forecast to grow to \$8.3 million by 2025. The study also shows that the capital cost of mitigating impacts of growth forecast in the 2008 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) is \$137 million. If not mitigated by UCSB, these capital costs would become unfunded liabilities to the County.

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation support legislation to require State institutions of higher education to appropriately mitigate local governments for their provisions of services and infrastructure to a campus and surrounding areas.

## CONTACT:

Derek Johnson, Deputy Director, Long Range Planning, Planning & Development Department, 805.568.2076.



# PROPOSITION 10

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Proposition 10, "The Children and Families First Act", was approved by the voters in 1998 to tax tobacco products to fund early child development. In light of the State budget shortfall, legislative bills and budget proposals are under consideration to divert Proposition 10 funds to either backfill previously State-funded programs focusing on children and families or to use the funds for unrelated services. The County opposes efforts to divert or borrow these funds.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Santa Barbara County First 5 uses its Proposition 10 funds to promote programs focusing on health and well-being, education, safety and early childhood development for families and children under the age of five. These programs reflect local control and local solutions as programs are designed to address the needs of the Santa Barbara County community.

First 5 investments in health, education and family support services for children prenatal through age five has focused on newborn home visiting, early childhood oral health, early childhood mental health and other special needs, school readiness, family support and early care and education.

Ten years since the passage of Proposition 10, young children have receive health insurance, timely immunizations, dental care, early identification of special needs and quality child care and preschool services. These services have been customized to the local community and reflect the vision behind local community-based strategic plans. Diverting or reprogramming these funds would allow the State Legislature to determine how to use these funds and may even result in these funds being used for services entirely unrelated to children.

## COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Diverting or reprogramming these funds would result in significant harm to children aged 0-5 by reducing or eliminating critical prevention and early intervention services. There would be negative impact on the budgets of both local public agencies and local community-based organizations that depend on the long-term contracts currently in place with First 5. Moreover, funding of prevention and early intervention services may save money in the long-term, reducing the need for government to provide crisis services or other more long-term costly treatments that may arise without proper prevention and intervention.

If the Legislature decides to seek voter approval to divert these funds, it will cost the State (and local government) money to hold a special election unless the initiative is placed on a regularly scheduled election. The cost of the special February 2008 election was \$89 million statewide.

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests its delegation oppose any efforts to divert, reprogram or "borrow" Proposition 10 funds.

## CONTACT:

Pat Wheatley, Executive Director, First 5 Santa Barbara County, 805.884.8087



# PUBLIC SAFETY & EMERGENCY RESPONSE

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Public safety is a core function of the County as it administers programs designed to prevent and respond to crimes, fires, disasters and other public safety threats. It is also a key actor in the criminal justice system, providing legal representation to certain segments of the community as well as litigating and prosecuting on behalf of the County. The County also ensures the safety of the community and works toward rehabilitation of adult and juvenile offenders. Ensuring the adequate funding of various public safety programs is of importance to the County as is promoting greater integration of health (and mental health treatment in particular) programs into safety settings such as jail, juvenile halls and other custody facilities.

- Emergency Operations Center: Acquire funding for construction of an emergency operation center, software and equipment. Support funding of emergency preparedness and response programs.
- Public Safety Grants: Ensure full funding of programs that prevent and control crime and improve the criminal justice system through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant and Community-Oriented Policing grants. These funds support District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation and Sheriff's Departments. Fully fund the Assistance to Firefighters grant program.
- Mental Health/Health Integration: Ensure inmates, including juveniles in detention as applicable, are eligible for Medicaid/Medicare/IHSS/SCHIP entitlements. Examine regulations that limit the number of jail mental health beds at the psychiatric health facility.
- Jail Construction: Partnering with government to construct a new jail/ 300 bed facility to address overcrowding at the State and local level (continuation of AB 900 implementation).
- SCAAP: Seek reimbursement for the costs of incarceration of undocumented criminal aliens via the State Criminal State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) that (1) reimburses the County Sheriff's Department for its true costs and (2) reimburses the County Probation Department for undocumented minors ("detainees") at juvenile halls/facilities.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The various functions performed by the County Fire, District Attorney, OES, Probation, Public Defender and Sheriff Departments ensure the public health and safety of the community.

## COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Full funding of programs require the federal and state governments to spend more; however, many of these costs are being borne by the County even though the function is mandated/ is the responsibility of the federal and state governments. Programs that provide prevention and rehabilitation services may achieve savings over time.

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation enhance the level of funding for public safety programs, ensure timely reimbursement to local government, broaden categories for reimbursement/funding as necessary and promote the integration of health and mental health into custody settings through regulatory reform.

## CONTACT:

Michael Harris, Emergency Operations Chief, County Office of Emergency Services, 805.560.1081  
Ken Shemwell Undersheriff, Sheriff's Department, 805.681.4288  
Martin Conoley, Deputy Chief, Probation Department, 805.882.3675





# SANTA MARIA LEVEE

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County owns and operates the Santa Maria Levee, which is a water conservation and flood control project. The 26 mile levee was built by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) in the 1960s and constructed as a compacted sand berm with a rock face to protect the sand from the scouring effects of water flows during a storm. When FEMA requested that the ACOE certify that the levee would provide protection from a 100 year flood, the ACOE would not. Therefore, the County, in partnership with the City of Santa Maria, is seeking a federal appropriation for repairs once a feasibility study has been completed.

The levee has a history of succumbing to damage due to flooding of the Santa Maria River, starting shortly after its construction date, as noted below:

- 1959-1963: Levee Built
- 1966: Revetment Damage
- 1969: Near Breach
- 1978: Revetment Damage
- 1983: Revetment Damage
- 1995: Revetment Damage
- 1998: Total Breach, Revetment Damage
- 2001: Revetment Damage
- 2007: Zaca Fire Burns 25% of Watershed



Bonita School Road Crossing: March 6, 2001

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The levee protects 100,000 residents living within the City of Santa Maria, including a residential housing tract and school, which are located directly across the portion of the levee that is threatened. It also provides full and supplemental irrigation to 35,000 acres of agricultural land, which is vital to the County's economic livelihood.

## COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The project is estimated to cost \$49 million based on an engineering report and would repair the most critical seven miles of the levee. The ACOE cost is between 50 -100% and any remaining project costs will be borne by the County, most likely through a voter approved benefit assessment on residents located within the Santa Maria Flood Zone. Federal appropriations would also help the County take advantage of potential State funding related to flood projects. The County has incurred costs related to "spot treatments" like pipe and wire groins, rock reinforcement and digging pilot channels to reinforce the levee until a more lasting solution has been funded.

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County will complete a feasibility study to determine repair options as a result of a 2007 appropriation request. The next phase of the project involves construction and the County will consult with the ACOE and submit an appropriation request to its Congressional delegation that funding for construction be provided in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. It will also seek the support of its State delegation for possible funding from Proposition 1E and 84 monies as well as any future water infrastructure bond monies.

## CONTACT:

Tom Fayram, Deputy Director of Flood Control/Water Resources, 805.568.3436



# SOCIAL SERVICES- COST OF DOING BUSINESS

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

For the County Department of Social Services (DSS), the State pays a portion of the costs associated with providing mandated public assistance programs ("cost of doing business" or "CODB"). This is not a reimbursement issue since the State covers caseload growth. However, the State's contribution to the County has not kept pace with inflation or the actual costs of salaries and benefits for a number of years. Rather, the State has frozen its funding for administration (salaries and benefits) and overhead at the 2001 level. The Department has deferred funding other needs in lieu of programmatic cuts, but cannot continue this practice indefinitely if the State does not increase its contribution levels.

The Department is at the tipping point. The State does not plan to provide these resources in the foreseeable future. Although it has been mitigated by the Department to a degree up to now, the full impact of not getting these resources will progressively begin to negatively impact the Department's ability to deliver the services required by the State and Federal government.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/ IMPACT

DSS programs affected include Adoptions, Adult Protective Services, CalWORKs, Child Welfare Services, Food Stamps, Foster Care, and In-Home Supportive Services, and because of legislation passed in the Final 2008-09 State budget, the Medi-Cal CODB is being withheld. As a result of the many years of withholding CODB and a compounding of the shortfall by adding Medi-Cal CODB withholding to the equation, the Department is likely facing a situation where DSS may not be able to fund negotiated salary and benefits or current service levels.

## COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Continued under-funding by the State has resulted in staffing decreases without a comparable decrease in State-mandated programs. Should this continue it would mean a significant decrease in service delivery, create inefficiencies in performance and impact the ability to meet mandated timeframes for all programs. Additionally, failure to meet mandated performance measures in programs may lead to fiscal sanctions being imposed by the Federal and State governments. Federal and State resources cannot be used to pay fiscal sanctions; therefore, any sanctions would need to be paid by the County's General Fund.

The Department estimates a cumulative \$6 million funding gap over the past seven years due to costs of administering programs without corresponding increases in State funding since 2001. The Department has used reserves and deferred spending on building maintenance, computer and other equipment upgrades, ergonomic furniture, and equity increases to staff as strategies to absorb the funding gap each year. For example, there has not been an equity adjustment to the salaries of eligibility and social workers to bring the County to parity with other counties. While these strategies may temporarily make up the funding shortfall, there are both short and long-term impacts to the Department's operations.

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

CSAC has convened a Human Services Deficit Workgroup to advocate with the Administration and Legislature to restore this CODB to all programs, but has agreed to forgo the restoration of the past deficit. The County requests that its delegation support efforts to restore appropriate funding levels.

## CONTACT:

Kathy Gallagher, Director, Department of Social Services, 805.681.4451



# STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM (SCHIP)

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

According to the 2005 California Health Interview Survey conducted by UCLA, Santa Barbara County ranks second highest in the State in terms of children per capita without health insurance. Over fourteen percent of children within the County are uninsured. The County has undertaken several efforts to address the issue of uninsured children and supports efforts at the Federal and State levels to provide funding for this need such as enhanced funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and preventing the elimination of reimbursement under Medicaid for school-based administration and transportation services.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT



Compared to children with health insurance, uninsured children are<sup>1</sup>:

- Three times more likely not to have seen a doctor in the past year;
- More than 13 times as likely to lack a usual source of medical care;
  - Five times more likely to have an unmet health care, dental, vision, prescription drug, or mental health care need;
- Two times more likely to die while in the hospital if admitted due to injuries; and,
- Two times more likely to not receive rehabilitative, follow up, or routine care upon discharge from the hospital.

In addition, a community's high rate of un-insurance can adversely affect the overall health status of the community. For example, low immunization rates increase the vulnerability of entire communities to outbreaks of measles and influenza. Childhood and adult immunization levels are correlated with having health insurance<sup>2</sup>. Of all of the costs of providing uncompensated care to the uninsured, hospitals carry the bulk of the burden – 63%<sup>3</sup>. In addition, since 14% of all uncompensated care is provided to children 0-18, the hospitals are also carrying a large proportion of this burden, typically in their emergency departments.

The school-based administration enables the Health Linkages Program, which is under the direction of the Santa Barbara County Education Office, to use the MAA funding to leverage private foundation and public grant dollars. This funding is directed at efforts to identify uninsured children, enroll said children in a subsidized health insurance program, assist families in accessing needed health care services and retain coverage.

## COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Currently, it is estimated that there are 5,000 children within the County that would qualify for Healthy Families. As of September 2007, the number of Santa Barbara County children enrolled in Healthy Families is 9,463. In order to increase the number of children with coverage, the County has formed a coalition of agencies (Regional Health Authority, First 5 Santa Barbara County Children and Families Commission, County Public Health Department, the County Department of Social Services and several public and non-profit organizations) have partnered to form the Children's Health Initiative, and added a "Healthy Kids" Insurance Program to provide insurance for children meeting 300% of the poverty level, or do not otherwise qualify for MediCal or Healthy Families. The Board of Supervisors allocated \$1 Million in 2007 and 2008 to increase the number of children that would receive Healthy Kids insurance. Funding from the federal and state governments would enhance local efforts to insure children. While the federal government would incur additional costs of enhancing SCHIP funding, the costs are likely to be offset by the long-term cost advantages of ensuring children have access to health insurance and services prior to catastrophic health issues. First 5 Santa Barbara County was informed in December 2008 that approximately 163,000 children would be disenrolled from the State program of Healthy Families given the economic and budgetary challenges facing the State. The 58 First 5 Commissions throughout the State have been asked to provide the State a proportional share of the cost of this program based on the number of newly enrolled children age 0-5 enrolled in Healthy Families in each county.

<sup>1</sup> Campaign for Children's Health Care, Why Insurance Matters for Children (July 2006)

<sup>2</sup> The Institute of Medicine Washington DC, Uninsurance Facts & Figures (Drawn from Hidden Costs, Value Lost 2003)

<sup>3</sup> The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, What we spend, Who Pays, and What would full coverage add to Medical Spending? (May 2004)



# STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM (SCHIP)

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests its delegation support legislation to reauthorize SCHIP and ideally increase funding levels for SCHIP.

The County also recommends other changes to SCHIP including:



- Inclusion of mental health services to children
- Improved coverage for dental health care
- Improved training for pediatricians to identify mental health and emotional health needs of children;
- Promotion of developmental screenings in early childhood development;
- Enhanced flexibility for states to increase coverage up to 400% of FPL; and,
- Enhanced flexibility for states to expand coverage to undocumented children, and other services that better meet the needs of the state population.

The County also requests that its delegation oppose CMS regulations that prevent the elimination of the Medicaid reimbursements for school-based MAA programs.

## CONTACT:

Pat Wheatley, Executive Director, First 5 Santa Barbara County, 805.884.8087





# TRANSPORTATION (SAFETEA-LU)

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County has several transportation projects to be considered as part of the reauthorization of the SAFETEA-LU program. SAFETEA-LU is currently authorized for 2005-2009.

**1. ROADWAY SURFACE TREATMENTS AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS** This project consists of in place recycling and deep-lift asphalt concrete overlays on (1) four Federal Aid Routes in the 24th Congressional District of the County, which includes various routes within the unincorporated areas of Santa Ynez, Lompoc, and Santa Maria and on (2) ten Federal Aid Routes in the 23rd Congressional District of the County, which includes various routes within the unincorporated areas of Montecito, Summerland, Santa Barbara, Goleta, Guadalupe and Lompoc. Both projects will allow the County to bring the selected roads up to current County standards for safety, ride quality and provides structural and much needed drainage improvements to the road infrastructure (\$5 Million per District).

**2. SANTA YNEZ SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS** This project, located on Roblar Avenue and Refugio Road in the Santa Ynez Valley, proposes to widen 4 miles of roadway to provide for safer travel. These roads are narrow and heavily traveled by passenger vehicles and large trucks, so increasing the roadway width for shoulders will allow for safer travel for the residents of the Santa Ynez Valley. Slurry seal treatment for Roblar Avenue and asphalt concrete overlay for Refugio Road are also included (\$4 Million).

**3. SUMMERLAND CIRCULATION & PARKING IMPROVEMENTS** This project, located on Ortega Hill Road and Lillie Avenue through the town of Summerland, proposes to improve the pedestrian, vehicular and bicycle circulation by constructing curb, gutter and sidewalks, delineating a Class II bike lane and by adding street lighting and angled parking where feasible. The project has received \$2.8 Million in funding and is anticipated to receive \$2 Million in funds through the State Transportation Improvement Plan cycle for portions of the improvements and some improvements are under construction (\$1.4 Million remaining).

**4. REFUGIO ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS** This project, located on Refugio Road along the Gaviota Coast, proposes to realign and widen Refugio Road for seven miles starting at Highway 101 and continuing northerly to the summit of the Santa Ynez Mountains. This portion of Refugio Road attracts recreation enthusiasts so the project will provide for safer access for bicyclists and equestrians by widening the existing roadway to include two lanes of travel, improving shoulders and sight distances. Refugio Road crosses Refugio Creek at seven locations: six low water crossings and one bridge. The low water crossings consist of concrete encased culverts to convey creek flow which act as a bridge in low flow events. However, under high flow conditions, water runs over the roadway and precludes vehicular traffic. Seasonal rains often fill the culvert openings in the crossings with debris, forcing the creek to flow across the roadway year round. The crossings impede the natural flow of the creek as well as the coastal steelhead/rainbow trout, a federally protected endangered species. The project proposes new replacement bridge structures that will improve creek conveyance and the fish and wildlife habitat. The proposed structures will raise the roadway profile as required by current design standards to allow for high creek flows under the road. Additional drainage improvements are proposed along the project limits to ensure rainfall run off is addressed adequately and safe passage is made available year round (\$30 Million).

**5. OLD TOWN ORCUTT STREETScape AND CIRCULATION IMPROVEMENTS** This project, located along Clark Avenue in the town of Orcutt, proposes to revitalize a historic downtown corridor of Clark Ave by improving access to Orcutt from Highway 101 and improving parking and pedestrian access within the historic Old Town Orcutt. This project has two components: (1) improvements to the Clark Avenue on and off ramps at Highway 101 and (2) formalization of temporary striping changes, as well as the construction of missing sidewalk segments along Clark Avenue. As more residents travel to this historic area, it has been shown that the traffic will increase at Highway 101 ramps thereby requiring traffic signals on the northbound and southbound ramps and minor widening to align the on and off ramps at both the northbound and southbound ramps of Highway 101. Regarding the striping changes, intersection curb returns will be "bulbed out" with additional sidewalk space for improved pedestrian safety, areas for landscaping and curb cuts that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (\$7.5 Million).



# TRANSPORTATION (SAFETEA-LU)

**6. PURISIMA ROAD WIDENING IMPROVEMENTS** This project, located along Purisima Road near the City of Lompoc, proposes to widen Purisima Road from State Route 1 to State Route 246. The purpose of this project is to address safety concerns by providing a safer mixed-use roadway system which accommodates both vehicles, bicyclists and equestrians, and thus encourages alternative modes of transportation and increases safety. The project will widen 5 feet on both the north and south side of the road and improve drainage by lengthening/relocating culverts and reconstructing headwalls (\$4.75 Million).

## **PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT**

These various projects are proposed to increase the safety of the various users of the County's road system including motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. Other benefits of these projects include drainage and structural improvements and increasing the surface conditions of roads.

## **COST TO GOVERNMENT**

The President signed SAFETEA-LU into law on August 2005, which authorizes \$244.1 billion in funding for highways, highway safety, and public transportation.

## **REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY**

The County requests support from its delegation to include these transportation projects in the 2010 SAFETEA-LU reauthorization as well as seeks assistance in identifying other funding opportunities for these projects.

## **CONTACT:**

Scott McGolpin, Director, Public Works Department, 805.568.3010



# TRANSPORTATION (PROPOSITION 42)

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The State charges an excise tax on gasoline and diesel that is intended to fund transportation projects. In 2002, voters passed Proposition 42, which amended the State Constitution to dedicate gas-tax revenue to transportation projects. However, Proposition 42 allowed the State to retain the gas-tax revenue in the State's General Fund during an economic crisis. The State has used this provision for three years and diverted more than \$5 billion from transportation to other uses. In 2006, the voters approved Proposition 1A, which amended the State Constitution to further limit the conditions under which the Proposition 42 transfer of gasoline sales tax revenues for transportation could be suspended and required Proposition 42 suspensions to be treated as loans to the General Fund that must be repaid in full, including interest, within three years of suspension. The Fiscal Year 08/09 State Budget fully funded Proposition 42, although the borrowing of these funds was considered as part of budget deliberations. Given the economic challenges facing the State, it is likely that the Legislature will consider borrowing Proposition 42 funds to balance the Fiscal Year 09/10 State budget, at the expense of local street maintenance and repair efforts. In addition to preventing the borrowing of Proposition 42 funds by the Legislature, the County is supportive of legislative efforts to increase the State "gas tax" and index this tax for inflation.



## PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department received \$3.5 million in FY08/09 for Proposition 42 revenues. This will enable the Department to perform necessary preventive maintenance to County roads, repair uplifted sidewalk, curb and gutter, install ADA compliant curb ramps, repair failing drainage structures, and complete repairs to infrastructure due to storm damage. Due to the receipt of Proposition 42 funds in FY 08/09, the County is able to devote \$350,000, or the equivalent preventative maintenance budget for seven lane miles, to a large storm damage repair project on a road that provides the only access to several ranches, homes and a County Park, the only coastal access to residents of the northern portion of Santa Barbara County. The Proposition 42 funds are a match to complete the construction of the repairs to a section of this roadway.

Both the need for and corresponding costs of maintenance and rehabilitation of roads has increased significantly and these costs are largely absorbed by the gas tax. Should the gas tax be increased and indexed to account for inflation, the gas tax would remain a viable funding source for the County's corrective maintenance program, which includes pothole patching, crack sealing, vegetation removal and addressing immediate safety needs.



# TRANSPORTATION (PROPOSITION 42)

## COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Should the State borrow Proposition 42, the State is required to repaying these funds with interest. Therefore, the use of Proposition 42 funds is a short-term budgetary “fix” that impacts local government’s ability to provide safe and reliable road maintenance and repair. With Proposition 42 funds, the County is able to perform preventive maintenance on 38 lane miles, which extend the life of these sections of pavement by 7 to 10 years. Without the continued receipt of full Proposition 42 funds, these lane miles will deteriorate and require more costly treatments and repairs in the future when funding becomes available.

In addition, the County uses these funds for sidewalk and curb ramps in residential neighborhoods throughout the County, which are used by many families as they walk their children to school and walk the neighborhood for recreation. This type of work is needed to abate any liability for the County from trip and fall claims. The County has also identified locations where roadway drainage facilities are failing and need to be replaced. If these facilities are not replaced, water will continue to intrude the pavement and could result in the complete failure of these roadways.

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County request that its delegation (1) support the full funding of Proposition 42 within the upcoming State budget and prevent the Legislature from borrowing these funds to balance the overall State budget and (2) support efforts to increase and index the State gas tax.

## CONTACT:

Scott McGolpin, Director, Public Works Department, 805.568.3010





# VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Lompoc Veterans Memorial Building is owned by the County of Santa Barbara and serves as a community resource for the area's veterans, non-profit groups and other residents. However, this aging building is in need of funding to renovate the structure.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The historic Lompoc Veterans Memorial Building, constructed in 1936, is a 20,393 square foot building home to several veterans groups. It is comprised of multiple offices, a large commercial kitchen, and two large halls that are able to accommodate hundreds of people. Moreover, it serves as a vital component of civic society, primarily as a gathering place for the military veterans in the area. Without renovations to the facility, the building may no longer be able to be used by the community.

## COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The County has estimated the cost of renovation to be approximately \$3.9 million, which includes:

- ADA upgrades including lift installation, restroom upgrade, handrail and signage installation (\$79,000)
- Architectural / Safety upgrades including installation of exit sign, fire rated doors and related hardware and fire alarm and fire sprinkler system, kitchen upgrade to Commercial Code requirements, insulation, restroom addition, roof tile and downspout repair (\$1,193,000)
- Structural upgrades including chimney repair and structural analysis (\$72,000)
- Mechanical upgrades to existing heating and plumbing systems (\$17,000)
- Electrical upgrades including replacement of circuitry and re-wiring of building (\$760,000)
- Hazardous Material abatement including asbestos and lead paint abatement, and termite inspection report (\$1,621,000)
- Exterior modifications including repair of existing sidewalks, curbs and gutters, enhanced landscaping and additional parking facilities (\$118,000)

## REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests assistance from its delegation to fund a portion of this project through an appropriations request.

## CONTACT:

Paddy Langlands, Assistant Director, General Services Department, 805.568.3070





COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA  
2009